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ABSTRACT

Based on the premise that writing students are most encouraged by samples of published work written by published authors rather than by great talents whose books have become classics, this book aims to show aspiring writers how to write competently and professionally enough to be published. Throughout the book, examples that can loosely be labeled "good" are followed by pieces that are better (along with reasons why they are better), followed by an example of what seems to be the best of its kind. After a preface, a note on method, and advice on learning to write, the first section of the book (Writing to Remember) discusses diaries and journals, memoirs, biography, and history. The second section (Writing To Tell a Story) addresses fiction and journalism. The third section (Writing To Instruct and Explain) discusses how-to-do-it books and how things work. The final section (Style and Substance) discusses poetry, business and technical writing, and humor. A 13-item annotated list of books useful to the would-be fiction writer is attached. (RS)

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